



14 Robbins Road
 1860
 Parsonage
 Kensington Congregational Church
 Greek revival
 Sold by Church in 2021

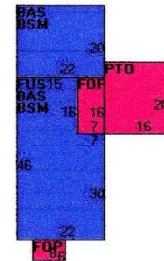
1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 147

1860 Parsonage current owner: Kensington Congregational Church Greek revival

2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

1860 current owner: Kensington Congregational Church

Sketch



First minister to reside in the parsonage was Rev. Elias B. Hillard in 1860.

Historic Buildings of Connecticut

The house at 14 Robbins Road in the Kensington section of the town of Berlin was perhaps built c. 1860 (it is so listed in Berlin property records). The lot (with no dwelling mentioned) was sold to the Kensington Ecclesiastical Society by Edward Cowles in 1870 and it has since served as the parsonage of the Kensington Congregational Church.. A volume released to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the church in 1912 indicates that, instead of a preexisting house, *The present parsonage was built in 1869-70. A debt of \$4100, incurred in part on account of the parsonage, was raised by subscription in 1871.* The parsonage is already noted on the map of Berlin in the 1869 Hartford County Atlas by Baker & Tilden.



HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
 HIST-6 NEW 5/77


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
 (203) 566-3005

#147

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR. SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION		DESCRIPTION	
1. BUILDING NAME (Common)		Kensington Congregational Church Parsonage	
2. TOWN CITY		Berlin	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)		14 Robbins Road	
4. OWNER(S)		Kensington Congregational Church	
5. USE (Present)		Parsonage	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
7. STYLE OF BUILDING		Italian Villa	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone foundation <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
10. ROOF (Type)		<input type="checkbox"/> Gable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ (Material) <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Gable end to the street <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) not visible <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street	
11. NUMBER OF STORIES		2	
APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS		22' x 30'	
12. CONDITION (Structural)		<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES		<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden	
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT		<input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS		At the southeast corner of Robbins and Percival streets, nearby the 18th-century Kensington Congregational Church.	

147

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE	
	HRC	11/84	
COMPILED BY	VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE	
	S	E17	
	NAME	DATE	
	Historic Resource Consultants	12/84	
	ORGANIZATION		
	The Colt Armory		
	55 Van Dyke Avenue		
	Hartford, Connecticut 06108		
20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:			
DESCRIPTION (Continued)	17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)		
	<p>The Kensington Congregational Church parsonage is a square-plan house with a three-bay facade and a left entry protected by a flat-roofed Colonial Revival portico on Tuscan columns. The portico has a wide plain frieze above an architrave featuring alternate blocks and cut-outs; the cornice has mutules. The heavy paneled entry door is old if not original. Windows have wide plain surrounds with prominent lintels and six-over-six sash; corner boards rise to a plain board frieze and wide overhanging eaves. The side elevations have small frieze-band windows. To the rear there is an original one-and-one-half story extension, and a later garage addition.</p>		
SIGNIFICANCE	18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER	
	<p>19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE</p> <p>The Kensington Congregational Church parsonage is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of the small square-plan, flat-roofed house commonly built between about 1850 and the mid-1880s. Later examples usually feature the bracketed cornice of the Italian Villa style; this house suggests the earlier Greek Revival style with its plain frieze, corner boards, and prominent board lintels.</p> <p>The land on which this house stands was sold to the Kensington Ecclesiastical Society by Edward Cowles in 1870. While the deed does not mention a dwelling house, the Greek Revival detailing makes it likely that the building originated no later than 1860; this is confirmed by the appearance of a parsonage at this location on an 1869 map. The building still serves as the parsonage, and its historical significance is based on this long-time association with an important community institution.</p>		
SOURCES	<p>1869 Atlas Berlin Land Records 37:66 (1870)</p>		